

FACT SHEET: SB 114

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LA COUNTY COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED MINORS PILOT PROGRAM SUNSET EXTENSION

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THE PROBLEM

SB 1279 (Pavley), signed into law in 2010, gave the Los Angeles District Attorney's office statutory authority to develop a pilot project, contingent upon local funding, for the purposes of developing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary model to address the needs and effective treatment of commercially sexually exploited minors. SB 1279 will sunset on January 1, 2014. While the pilot is still seeking additional grant funding, the protocols have been established but the program needs more time for implementation.

BACKGROUND

The commercial sexual exploitation of minors is a crime that devastates California communities as well as the young men and women personally affected by this atrocious form of abuse. This problem requires a multi-faceted solution, including increased enforcement against traffickers and providing avenues of escape for the victims of trafficking as early as possible.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, approximately 100,000 children are at risk of being commercially sexually exploited annually and the average age of entry into commercial sex industry is between 12 and 14. Minors engaged in the commercial sex industry often suffer from physical and severe psychological damage from the trauma they experience from being exploited.

The commercial sexual exploitation of minors takes place in many communities in California. The state harbors three of the FBI's thirteen highest child sex trafficking areas in the nation: Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego

Pilot programs, such as the one established by SB 1269, serve as a model for other counties and the State as a whole in helping exploited minors realize a full, healthy and productive life. Authorizing the District Attorney to engage collaboratively with community organizations, relevant law enforcement, and social service entities to develop diversion programs for exploited minors is a major step forward in the rehabilitation of these minors that are in need of counseling and support.

THE SOLUTION

SB 114 (Pavley) will extend the pilot program sunset until January 1, 2017. Extending the sunset will allow the program more time for implementation of the protocols that will benefit commercially sexually exploited youth.

Support

- Children's Advocacy Institute (Sponsor)
- Los Angeles County District Attorney